

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7017

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4222

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: FLEXIBILITY PLAN FOR CENTRAL REGION

REF: STATE 162444

MISSION SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO SYG LUNS ON JULY 30, 1974,
TEXT OF LETTER INCORPORATES GUIDANCE RECEIVED IN REFTEL.
BEGIN TEXT:

THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN A PLAN FOR
FLEXIBILITY IN THE CENTRAL REGION WAS GIVEN STRONG IMPETUS
BY GENERAL GOODPASTER'S LETTER OF OCTOBER 23, 1973, TO
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, WHICH WAS FORWARDED TO ALL NATO
MINISTERS OF DEFENSE IN EARLY DECEMBER 1973 WITH THE CON-
CURRENCE OF GENERAL GOODPASTER. IN THAT LETTER, SACEUR
IDENTIFIED "SOME OF THE ACTION AREAS THAT ARE GEARED TO
PROVIDING MUCH GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR OUR FORCES THAN WE
HAVE TODAY, IN TERMS OF THE WAY THEY ARE CAPABLE OF BEING
EMPLOYED IN DEFENSE OPERATIONS." SACEUR STATED THAT THE
DRIVING CONSIDERATION BEHIND HIS PROPOSAL TO BUILD GREATER
FLEXIBILITY WAS THAT "WE ARE NOT NOW ABLE TO GET, FROM
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THESE POWERFUL AND EXPENSIVE FORCES, ANYTHING LIKE THE FULL
SCALE OF EFFECTIVENESS THAT THEY SHOULD PROVIDE." WHILE
HIS OBSERVATIONS DEALT WITH AIR AND GROUND FORCES IN THE
CENTRAL REGION, HE NOTED THAT THE SAME POSSIBILITIES EXISTED
AND NEEDED TO BE DEVELOPED THROUGHOUT ALL ELEMENTS OF THE

COMMAND.

IN AN EFFORT TO MOVE TOWARD THE GOALS OUTLINED BY GENERAL GOODPASTER, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, IN HIS WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE JUNE MINISTERIAL MEETING, PROPOSED A STUDY OF FACTORS AFFECTING THE FLEXIBLE USE OF NATO FORCES. THE UNITED STATES FEELS THAT SUCH A STUDY, AT LEAST AT FIRST, SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE CENTRAL REGION. SACEUR SHOULD ADDRESS ALL APPROPRIATE ASPECTS OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO REINFORCEMENT PLANNING, LOGISTICS, STANDARDIZATION, COMMAND AND CONTROL, COMMON SUPPORTING PROGRAMS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND SUPPORT FROM THE CIVIL SECTOR.

WE BELIEVE THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE TO IDENTIFY THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH MILITATE AGAINST FULL EFFECTIVENESS IN THE USE OF EXISTING FORCES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE CENTRAL REGION AND TO PROPOSE IMMEDIATE AND LONGER-TERM ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THESE CONSTRAINTS.

THE STUDY SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL FORCES WHICH MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CENTRAL REGION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE FORMALLY COMMITTED TO THE ALLIANCE.

MY AUTHORITIES HOPE THAT A FIRST REPORT IDENTIFYING CONSTRAINTS AND OUTLINING THE SCOPE OF IMMEDIATE ACTIONS AND LONGER-TERM PROGRAMS TO BE CONSIDERED WILL BE READY FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AT THE DECEMBER 1974 MEETING. WHILE CERTAIN DECISIONS ON REMEDIAL MEASURES MAY BE TAKEN AT THE DECEMBER MEETING, IT IS EXPECTED THAT FURTHER WORK MAY BE REQUIRED AFTER DECEMBER, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO LONGER-RANGE PROGRAMS.

WE BELIEVE SACEUR SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE LEEWAY IN IDENTIFYING CRUCIAL PROBLEM AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH FLEXIBILITY IN THE CENTRAL REGION AND THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE NEED

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NOTGO MUCH BEYOND THE CONTENT OF THIS LETTER. SINCE THE VACATION SEASON MAY CAUSE INTERRUPTION OF NORMAL CRC AND DPC MEETINGS. YOU MAY WISH TO USE THE SILENCE PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN EARLY APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FLEXIBILITY STUDY.

I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

END TEXT
GOOCBY

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
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